

PART II

SNOHOMISH COUNTY POPULATION

Geographically, the population of Snohomish County is very unequally distributed. The majority of the people live in the southwestern part of the county, west of the Snohomish River between the southern border and Everett. North of Everett, a population belt extends along U. S. Highway 99 to the vicinity of Arlington. Settlement in the northwestern portion of the county is more scattered. Elsewhere, the population is confined largely to the Stillaguamish and Skykomish Valleys. Parts of Snohomish County are nearly void of people because of rugged terrain and lack of transportation facilities.

Population Growth

The growth of Snohomish County was slow prior to 1870. Lack of easy overland accessibility and the hardships involved in clearing land hindered early immigrants. Snohomish was settled largely from west to east rather than vice versa because the western portion of the county was most readily accessible. The period 1870 to 1890 was one in which there was rapid population growth. Opportunities in mining, logging and agriculture brought immigrants from eastern states and Europe. By 1890, the county population was 8,514.

Construction of railroads into Snohomish County stimulated rapid population growth. The years 1900 to 1910 were a decade when the county population increased nearly two and one-half times--23,950 to 59,209. Railroads brought new settlers and encouraged industrial growth in the area. Agriculture developed to satisfy new markets and began to specialize in farm products best suited to the area. As a result, full-time and part-time farmers increased in numbers.

Between 1910 and 1940, the population of Snohomish County grew at a slow but steady rate. A relative reduction in employment opportunities and a growing scarcity of potential farmland were reflected in the slower rate of population growth. However, the population did gain 29,545 persons during the three decades --increasing from 59,209 in 1910 to 88,754 in 1940.

The 1940-1960 period witnessed an increase in the rate of population growth relative to the years between 1910 and 1940. Urban and rural-nonfarm population grew rapidly as new employment opportunities in manufacturing and services became available in Seattle and Everett. The number of people in the county grew from 88,754 at the beginning of the period to 111,580 in 1950 and to 172,199 in 1960. In 1960, Snohomish County accounted for about 6 percent of the state population of 2,853,214.

Urban and Rural Population

Until 1900, Snohomish was entirely rural with all persons living on farms, in the country or in cities or villages under 2,500 persons. In 1900, Everett reached 7,838 in population, becoming the first incorporated place in the county to be classified as urban (i.e., with over 2,500 persons) by the Census. Of Snohomish's population in 1900, 67 percent was rural and only 33 percent was urban.

By 1910, the community of Snohomish, with a population of 3,244, joined Everett's 24,814 persons to make up the county's urban population. Everett and

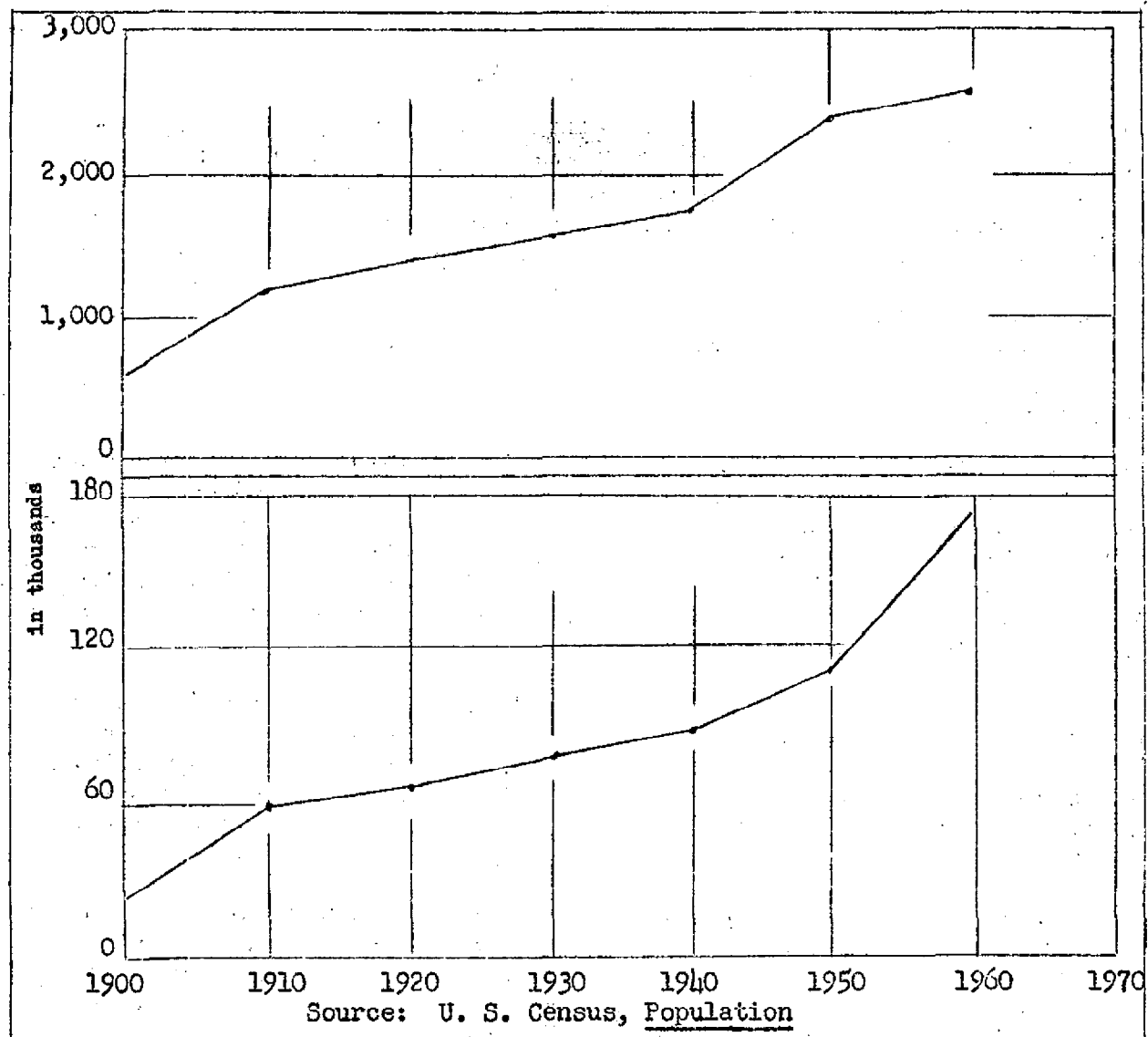


Figure 1. Population Trends: 1900-1960

Table 1. Population of Snohomish County
1870-1960

Year	Population	Percent Rural	Percent Urban
1870	599	100.0	0
1880	1,387	100.0	0
1890	8,514	100.0	0
1900	23,950	67.3	32.7
1910	59,209	52.6	47.4
1920	67,690	54.8	45.2
1930	78,861	57.8	42.2
1940	88,754	62.8	37.2
1950	111,580	57.1	42.9
1960	172,199	44.0	56.0

Source: U. S. Census, Population

Snohomish were still the only incorporated urban places in the county forty years later in 1950. In 1960, Edmonds (population 8,016) and Marysville (population 3,117) also were "urban" as well as the more recently incorporated communities of Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood with populations of 9,122 and 7,207, respectively. According to the Census of 1960, 56 percent of the county population was urban consisting of the residents of the six major cities and the densely settled fringe of urbanized areas.

Between 1900 and 1910, the percentage of rural population in the county decreased as the urban percentage increased. In the next three decades, however, the situation was reversed. The percentage of rural population increased from 53 in 1910 to 63 in 1940 with the urban percentage declining accordingly. This was caused largely by rural growth in the interurban districts between the city limits of Everett and Seattle. Of course, most of the population in this interurban area was rural-nonfarm consisting of persons living in unincorporated suburbs and small towns and, therefore, they were classed as rural by the Census.

During the 1910-1940 period, the urban population increased nearly 18 percent from 28,058 to 33,018 while the number of rural inhabitants showed a much greater gain of 79 percent--31,151 to 55,736. In the following two decades, the percentage of the urban population took an upward trend, going from 37 percent in 1940 to 56 percent in 1960. A large number of the residents living in the area between Everett and Seattle which was considered rural-nonfarm in previous Censuses was classed as part of the urban population in 1960.

Table 2. Population of Incorporated Places
Snohomish County, 1910-1960

Incorporated City or Town	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960
Arlington	1,476	1,418	1,439	1,460	1,635	2,025
Darrington	--	--	--	--	921	1,272
East Stanwood	--	--	330	359	378	477
Edmonds	1,114	936	1,165	1,288	2,057	8,016
Everett	24,814	27,644	30,567	30,224	33,849	40,304
Gold Bar	--	353	304	307	305	315
Granite Falls	714	632	495	683	635	599
Index	417	412	381	217	211	158
Lynnwood	--	--	--	--	--	7,207
Marysville	1,239	1,244	1,354	1,748	2,259	3,117
Monroe	1,552	1,675	1,570	1,590	1,556	1,901
Mountlake Terrace	--	--	--	--	--	9,122
Mukilteo	--	--	--	--	826	1,128
Snohomish	3,244	2,985	2,688	2,794	3,094	3,894
Stanwood	544	704	715	600	710	646
Sultan	576	687	830	961	814	821

Source: U. S. Census, Population

In 1960, the rural population was predominantly rural-nonfarm, consisting of 67,791 persons who lived in small towns or in the country but not on farms. The rural-nonfarm persons represented almost 90 percent of the total rural population. Rural-farm population has greatly decreased in the two decades between 1940 and

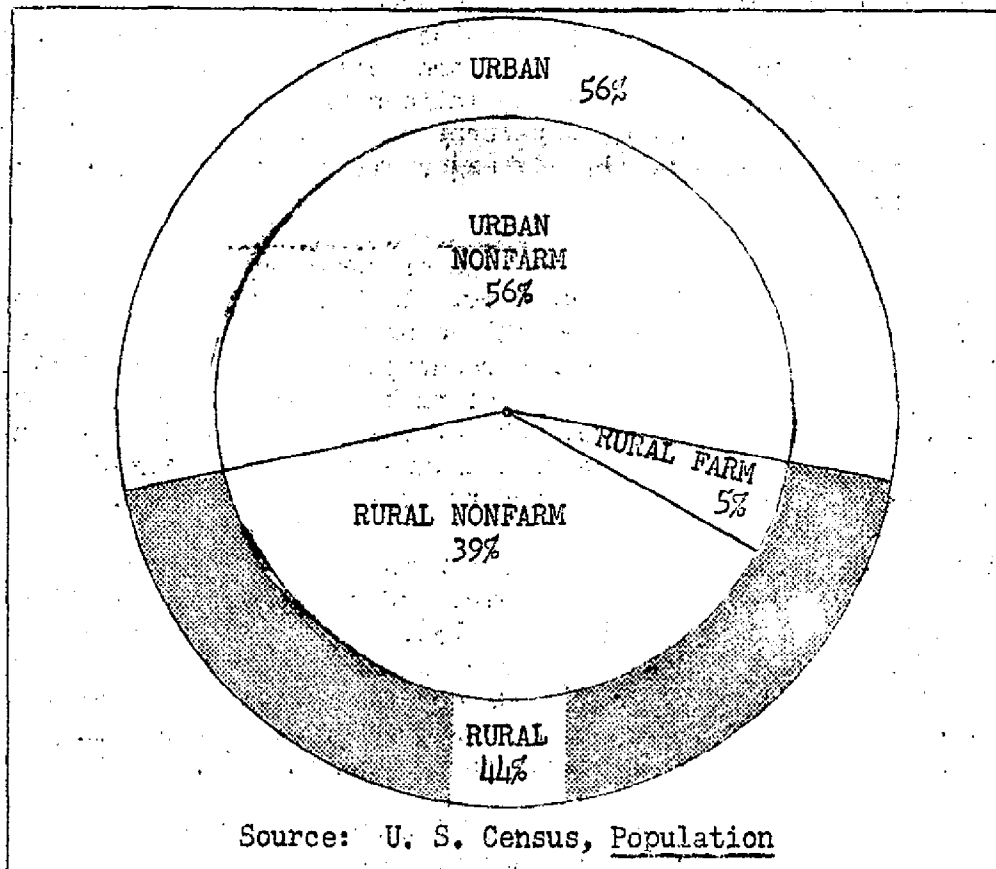


Figure 2. Urban and Rural Population, Snohomish County, 1960

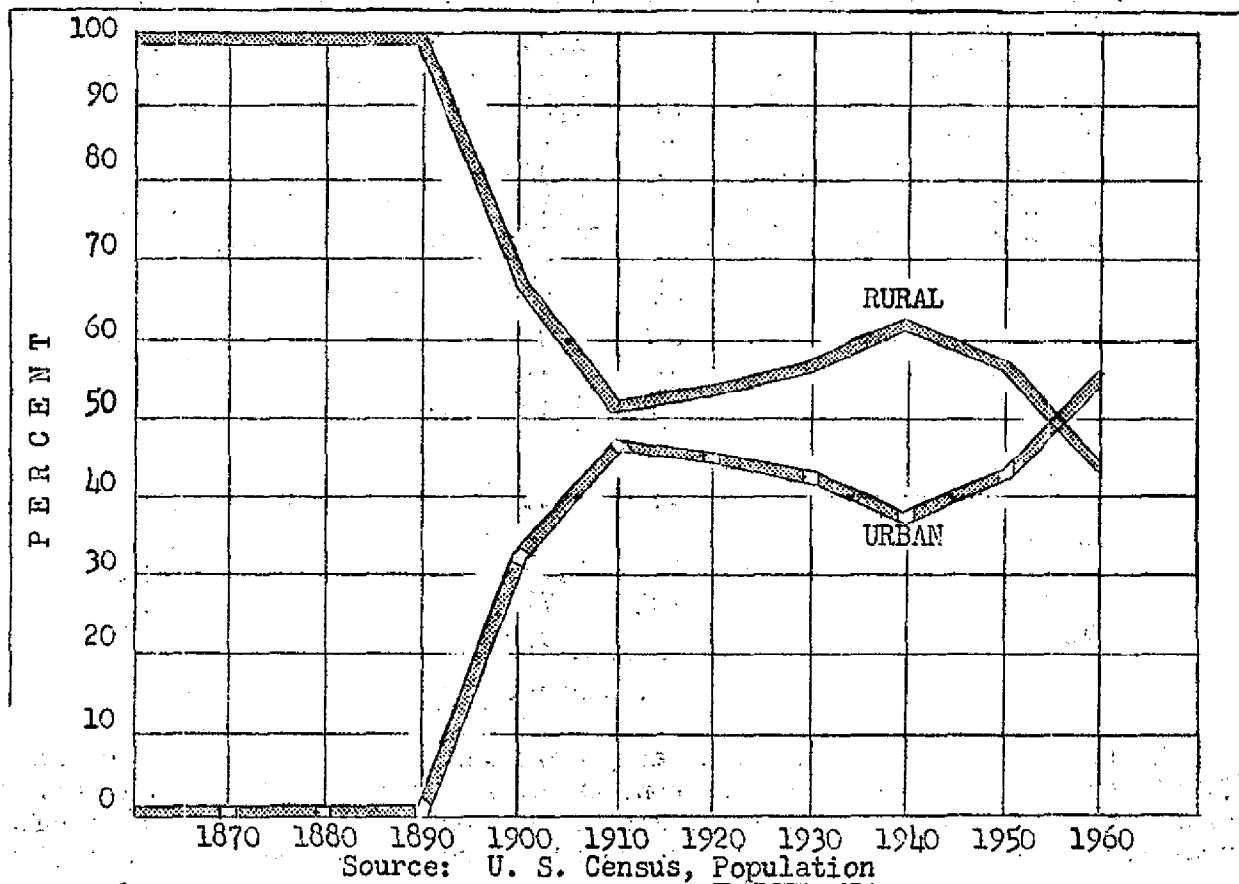


Figure 3. Rural and Urban Population Trends, Snohomish County, 1870-1960

1960. Persons living on farms numbered 18,404 in 1930, 23,624 in 1940, then dropped to 17,174 in 1950 and to 7,953 in 1960. The drop in farm population between 1940 and 1960 represents almost a threefold decline. Some of this decline, however, was the result of a change in the Census definition of a farm in 1960. In 1960, Snohomish County ranked fourth among the counties of Washington in farm population. Both farms and people living on farms are becoming fewer, whereas the production of farm products continues to increase. Snohomish County finds itself in a period of technologic, fashion, economic and social change.

In 1960, Snohomish County contained 17 incorporated places. Most of the tidewater cities and towns, inland farm centers and residential communities in the county have shown an upward trend in population. Other places, especially those located in the eastern sections, have shown varied growth and even decline largely as a result of changing employment in the forest and mining industries. Everett is the county's seat of government, trade and industrial center and the largest city. Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood have grown mainly as residential areas for the city of Seattle in King County. The larger farm centers such as Marysville and Snohomish have increased in population especially since 1950. The combined population of the 16 incorporated places amounted to 81,002 in 1960, representing 47 percent of the total county population.

Population Characteristics

Typical of many counties in the western United States, Snohomish has been a melting pot of many nationalities who have migrated from Europe to seek new lands and job opportunities. In 1920, about one-fifth of the population came from foreign lands. As a source of early immigrants, Canada, Norway, Sweden, England and Germany lead all others. These immigrants have done much to develop Snohomish County lumbering and agriculture. The percentage of foreign-born whites in the total population has decreased as a result of the large drop in European emigration to the United States since 1920.

Table 3. Employment of the Population
Snohomish County, 1960

Types of Employment	Total Workers
<u>Total employed workers</u>	57,199
Agriculture	2,523
Forestry and Fisheries . . .	331
Mining	72
Construction	4,741
Manufacturing	16,427
Transportation, Communications and other Public Utilities	4,370
Retail and Wholesale Trade .	11,431
Miscellaneous Services . . .	13,605
Public Administration (govern- ment employment)	2,168
Other employment	1,531

Source: U. S. Census, Population

In 1960, foreign-born persons residing in Snohomish numbered 10,347 and represented 6 percent of the total county population. The five largest immigrant groups were English, Norwegian, Swedish, German and Dutch. In 1960, about 24 persons out of each 100 were of foreign stock (all first and second generations) in Snohomish County. There were 40,861 persons of foreign stock in the county in 1960.

The nonwhite population of Snohomish County was 1,697, according to the Census of 1960. The races included 888 Indians, 456 Negroes, 169 Japanese, 35 Filipinos and 32 Chinese. The Indians live mostly on the Tulalip Indian Reservation a few miles north of Everett.

In 1960, a total of 57,199 persons were employed in the county. Manufacturing and miscellaneous services were the two leading types of employment. The Census counted 16,427 working in manufacturing and 13,605 in miscellaneous services covering many trades. A large segment of the manufacturing employment was in the lumber, wood products, ship building and repairing and food processing industries. Retail and wholesale trade was third in the number of employed persons with 11,431. Construction, transportation, communications and public utilities also were important occupations in 1960. Sixth in rank in terms of employment number was agriculture with 2,523 persons. Those employed in agriculture represented 4 percent of all self-employed and employed persons in the county. Government employees totaled 2,168 in that year. Forestry and mining which were important in the early days of Snohomish County were relatively minor occupations in 1960.

According to the 1930 Census, there were 115 males per 100 females in Snohomish County. In 1960, Snohomish's population consisted of 86,851 males and 85,348 females, a ratio of 102 males per 100 females. The number of women relative to men tends to increase as the county becomes older and more settled. Other factors such as war and industrialization also tend to increase the proportion of women. In 1960, rural men numbered 39,416 and rural women 36,328--a ratio of 108 males per 100 females.

Snohomish County's population is aging. The percentage of older people has been increasing steadily since 1870. The 1930 Census showed that only 7 percent of the people in the county were 65 years old and over, whereas in 1960 this group accounted for 9 percent of the total. Improved health practices and greater medical knowledge have played an important part in lengthening the life span. In 1960, the largest single age group was that of children to 4 years of age. Children 5 to 9 years of age formed the second largest group while those between 10 and 14 years were third. Children under 15 years of age accounted for 34 percent of the county's population.

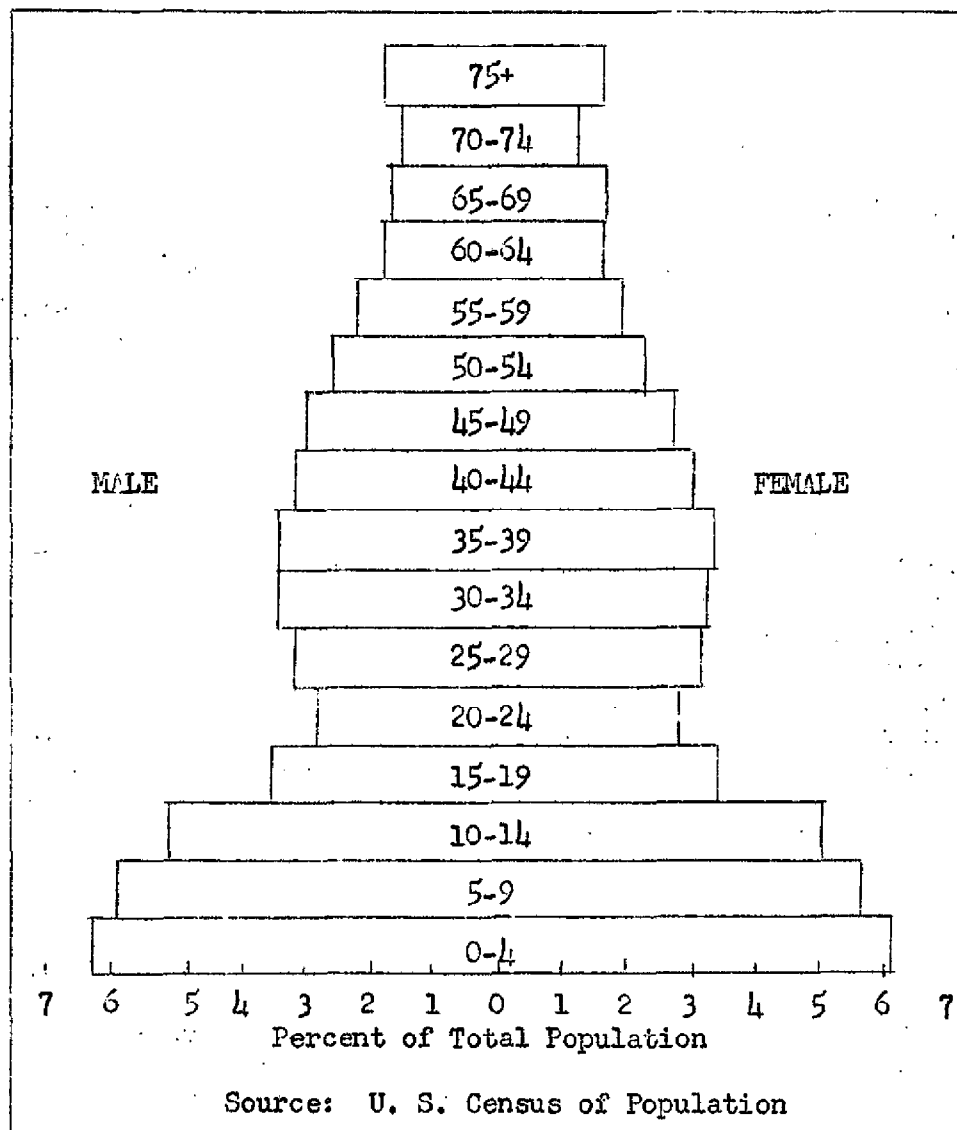


Figure 4. Age Distribution of Population, Snohomish County, 1960